



# The Mountain Chickadee

Newsletter of the Wasatch Audubon Society

Vol. 38, Number 5 September/October 2019

## WAS Meetings and Happenings

**SPEAKERS WILL START AT 7:00PM, WITH MEETING AND SOCIAL TO FOLLOW**

**Tuesday, September 17, 2019 – 7:00PM**

### **“Birds of Change” presentation:**

Artist Susan Snyder will make a presentation on the “Birds of Change” exhibit that she and four other artists have created. This exhibit honors and educates about 314 species of North American birds that the National Audubon Society has claimed are in danger of losing 50% or more of their ranges due to climate change.

**Tuesday October 15, 2019 – 7:00PM**

### **Birding Ecuador and the Galapagos:**

The Tres Amigos (members John Bellmon, Dan Johnston, and Paul Lombardi) will present a talk and slideshow reporting on their recent trip to Ecuador and the Galapagos. In addition to observing lots of birds and other fascinating wildlife, they experienced life on a 75-foot catamaran with 10 other avid birders.

Meetings are held at the Ogden Nature Center located at 966 West 12<sup>th</sup> Street, Ogden

**PLEASE JOIN US  
AND BRING A FRIEND!**

## **Saturday October 12**

### **Wasatch Audubon’s 6<sup>th</sup> Annual “The Big Sit!” Fundraiser**

By John Bellmon

You are invited to Wasatch Audubon's 6th Annual The Big Sit! This is a world-wide event held on the second weekend in October and is our annual fundraiser. Participants sit in a 17- foot circle and record the number of bird species seen or heard in a specific time period.

This year the event will be held on Saturday, October 12, at the Robert N. Hasenyager Great Salt Lake Nature Reserve at Farmington Bay (the west end of Glover Lane in Farmington). Our 17-foot circle will be on the west side of the parking lot. The event will be from 4:00am to about 8:00pm. All are welcome to participate, from new birders to more seasoned birders. People can be a part of the circle for as little as 15 minutes or as much as 18 hours. The Eccles Wildlife Education Center will be open during its normal hours; and we will have access to parking, restrooms, and, of course, all the birds.

The Big Sit! is our big fundraiser for the year and all contributions go to support more than 60 free field trips, 4 special events, our chapter's participation in Youth Impact of Ogden, and 10 community programs that Wasatch Audubon hosts each year. Participation is free, but we encourage participants to establish sponsors for the event. Talk with family, friends, neighbors, and co-workers about sponsoring you for The Big Sit! Up to five million birds of over 200 species visit Farmington Bay each year. We expect to see about 40 to 45 species, so a donation of \$0.50 per species would equal \$20 to \$22.50; however, flat rate pledges are great. Donations can be made by sending a check to Wasatch Audubon, P. O. Box 3211, Ogden, UT 84409. Bring a chair and come join the fun during our 2019 “The Big Sit!”



## Wasatch Audubon Society

Website: <http://www.wasatchaudubon.org>

### Officers

President	Dan Johnston	801-645-8633
Vice President	Jay Stretch	801-721-9432
Secretary	Sharen Perry	801-392-9554
Treasurer	Betty Evans	801-476-0232
Past President	Dan Johnston	801-645-8633

### Board

2019/2020	Taylor Abbot	980-622-9889
2019/2020	Mile Hearrell	801-529-8693
2019/2020	Daniel Brown	801-896-8002
2018/2019	Lynn Carroll	801-392-8216
2018/2019	Billy Fenimore	801-301-3756
2018/2019	Tom Wuenschell	801-476-4546

### Committee Chairpersons

Conservation	Lynn Carroll	801-392-8216
Conservation	John Bellmon	801-444-3704
Education	Dennis Collins	801-393-1115
Feeder Projects	Laura Johnston	801-458-9558
Field Trips	Vacant	
Wed. Bird Walks	Paul Lombardi	801-678-8065
Historian	Ruth Davis	801-309-0425
Hospitality	Jeane Taylor	801-721-9432
Membership	Lynn Carroll	801-392-8216
Newsletter	Laura Johnston	801-458-9558
Programs	Susan Snyder	801-388-4201
Publicity	Arnold Smith	801-829-3383
Website	Patricia Allaire	801-597-1091

### About Us:

The **Wasatch Audubon Society** is an association of people who share an interest in birds, all natural things, and Utah's varied habitats. Our goals include: educating ourselves and others about wildlife and the natural environment; enjoying the out-of-doors in fellowship with others who share similar values; fostering an appreciation of wildlife and understanding of ecological principles; promoting opportunities for the public to see and appreciate birds and bird habitats; and influencing public policy toward a conservation ethic. You might also want to visit our website at <http://www.wasatchaudubon.org>.

## President's Pipeline

By Dan Johnston

When asked "What is a number one on your Bucket List?" What will be your answer? Mine was go to the Galapagos Islands. When John and Paul told me they were going and asked if I wanted to go too, I was ready with a great big YES. On July 2<sup>nd</sup> of this year, Tres Amigos set out on their great adventure.

We spent four days birding around Quito. Our guide, Andreas De La Torre, picked us up on day 1 and we spent the day on the Yanacocha Reserve northwest of Quito. Tandayapa Bird Lodge was our lodging for that night. The next day, we birded back to Quito along the old Mindo-Nomo road. The next day, we headed southeast of Quito, high in the Andes to the base of the almost 19,000-foot mountain, Antisana. We saw 19 Andean Condors and half a dozen very rare Blacked-faced Ibis. We then drive to Guango Bird Lodge on the Papallacta River, a tributary of the great Amazon River. We added a lot of species to our list of hummingbirds seen, 36, at the Lodge. We spent the night there and awoke to rain, but it is the rain forest. We didn't see the Torrent Duck, but that was about the only failure we had. Then it was back to Quito to meet up with our tour group to the Galapagos.

Tres Amigos met up with 10 other birders and our 2 guides, Willy Perez and Peter Freire. We flew out to our big Galapagos Adventures with a stopover at Guayaquil. We landed on Baltra Island. With a short bus and a ponga ride, we settled into our berth aboard the "Nemo III" for the next week.

In the next week, we traveled 480 nautical miles. We landed and explored 9 more islands. We saw free-range Galapagos Giant Tortoise. We swam with and saw many Green sea turtles. We saw hundreds of Land Iguanas and thousands of Marine Iguanas basking in the sun. There were many smaller Lava Lizards mixed in with the iguanas. From the Nemo III, we saw several whales and had Dolphins swim with the ship. The Galapagos Seal Lions adorned the rocks, beaches and ocean on most of the islands.

And since this was a birding tour, I'll mention the birds. 61 species were spotted on the Islands trip. That includes all but 3 endemic Finch species. We saw 14 of the 17 species and 7 subspecies of Darwin Finches. It was amazing to see the evolutionary differences in them. There are 4 species of mockingbirds separated around the Islands. The northernmost penguin is the

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**President's Pipeline** (cont. from page 2)

Galapagos Penguin. The flightless Cormorant is quite a unique bird with tiny, useless wings. My favorite is the Blue-footed Booby. They are friendly, entertaining, and beautiful birds.

The unexpected bonuses of the trip are such things as the ride in the "Chicken Trucks" on Isabela and Floreana. We explored the pirate and fresh water caves in the highlands of Floreana. We climbed the Prince Phillips Steps on Genovesa. We explored the Twin Sink holes (Los Gemelos) on Santa Cruz. We walked the newest island, Fernandina, only five hundred thousand years old. We also met many hospitable people who welcomed us warmly.

The trip was much more than I ever imagined in all ways. Come to the October 15<sup>th</sup> WAS Meeting to see slides and hear Tres Amigos share their experiences. If any of you have a chance to take that trip on your bucket list, I say go for it. It could be one of those trips of a life time.

Happy Birding,

*Dan*

## VOLUNTEER FIELD TRIP LEADER NEEDED!

**Our WAS meetings are scheduled for the third Tuesday of each month and field trips are usually scheduled for the Saturday following our meeting. Generally, the field trips cover a local area and last for one-half day. Occasionally, a trip can last all day.**

**If you would like more information or are interested in volunteering, please contact Dan Johnston by email at [danielj47@comcast.net](mailto:danielj47@comcast.net) or by phone at 801-645-8633**

**Conservation Corner**

## Climate Solutions II

By Lynn Carroll

The news about Earth's climate is discouraging. While the warming at the poles is happening faster than expected, the transition away from burning fossil fuels is being impeded by those in power. What can be done while we wait for the political climate to change?

I have been reading *Drawdown*, a book compiling the work of a large team who analyzed the efficacy and economics of many techniques for reducing the greenhouse gases in the atmosphere, by decreasing emissions and/or by sequestering carbon. I'll discuss a few of these.

*Drawdown* treats different forms of alternative energy production as different solutions. Combining them as "substitute alternative technologies for burning fossil fuels," probably identifies the most important climate solution. Instead of trying to sell Utah coal to China, we should be encouraging them to close their coal-fired power plants.

I was surprised that the climate solution that ranked #1 has nothing to do with fossil fuels, but rather refrigerants. Remember those refrigerants that were banned because they were shrinking the ozone layer? Those chemicals, called CFCs and HCFCs, and their replacements, hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), are greenhouse gasses. HFCs vary from 1,000 to 9,000 times as potent as carbon dioxide! Fortunately, in 2016 an amendment to the Montreal Protocol was negotiated; it will phase out use of HFCs globally over ten years, starting this year. Air-conditioning becomes ever more popular (especially in developing countries), and refrigeration is also increasing as temperatures rise. So it's imperative to put systems in place to

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**Conservation Corner** (cont. from Page 3)

avoid leaks from appliances that contain HFCs and to recover and destroy the refrigerants in old, unused appliances.

Food production and consumption are two more areas in which changes can fight global warming. Collectively, people can have a big impact by reducing or eliminating the meat in their diets, especially beef. Cattle's digestive systems produce (and release) methane. On plant-rich diets, we North Americans would be healthier, and more land would be available for wildlife or feeding the hungry. It's a way we all can contribute a little or a lot.

We all know that eating habits won't change quickly, but the negative impacts of raising livestock can be reduced by using "silvopasture," which is combining trees and pasture in a symbiotic system akin to a savanna ecosystem. The scattered trees provide livestock with shade and windbreaks. The livestock provide manure and weed control. Trees enhance soil fertility and moisture, so the forage becomes more nutritious. The trees and soil of these pastures sequester 5-10 times as much carbon as a treeless pasture the same size, while the livestock yield will typically be a few percent higher.

Finally, one of the lowest-cost solutions per ton of carbon dioxide reduced is educating girls in poor countries. The poorest countries have the lowest **per capita** greenhouse gas emissions—from one tenth to one one-hundredth of the U.S. per capita rate. But these also include the places with the highest rates of population growth. The Brookings Institution says, "The difference between a woman with no years of schooling and with 12 years of schooling is almost four to five children per woman." So providing universal 12- or 13-year schooling in low-income countries could dramatically reduce the population growth there, thus reducing their greenhouse gas emissions while improving their lives.

# CALENDAR



## SEPTEMBER

**4 Wednesday 7:00/7:30am Bird Walk**  
**Willard Bay State Park:** Meet at McDonald's (Exit 349 I-15) for breakfast or at 7:30am to carpool. Remember this is a fee area.

**11 Wednesday 7:00/8:15am Bird Walk**  
**Antelope Island Causeway and Fielding Garr Ranch**  
 Meet at Village Inn (1780 W 5600 S, Roy) for breakfast or at 8:15am at the Antelope Island entrance lot. This is a fee area.

**14 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday 8:00/9:00am Bird Walk**  
**West Haven Cemetery:** Meet at Denny's (North on 1100 W from 21<sup>st</sup> Street in the Flying J Plaza) or at the Cemetery at 9:00am.

**17 Tuesday 7:00pm WAS Meeting at**  
**Ogden Nature Center 966 W 12<sup>th</sup> Street:**  
 Artist Susan Snyder will make a presentation on the "Birds of Change" exhibit that she and four other artists have created. See "WAS Meetings" on page one for more details.

**18 Wednesday 7:00/8:00am Bird Walk**  
**South Ogden Nature Park:** Meet at Village Inn (1765 E Skyline Drive) South Ogden for breakfast or at the Nature Park parking lot at 8:00am.

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**CALENDAR** (Continued from Page 4)

**21 Saturday 8:00am Field Trip**  
**Nest Box Cleanout:** It is time to clean out the nest boxes so they will be ready for nesting next spring. This is very important as the birds will not use old nests. We will meet at Smiths (12<sup>th</sup> and Harrison Blvd., Ogden) at 8:00am. We will divide into teams, if needed, and then head up to Monte Cristo. You need no skills, just enthusiasm! Wear hiking shoes and bring lunch and a drink if wanted for a picnic afterwards.

**25 Wednesday 7:00/7:30am Bird Walk**  
**Canal Walk (North Mountain Road) 2450 N North Ogden:** Meet at McDonald's (Washington and 2600 N) for breakfast or at 7:30 in the parking lot to carpool. Take 2450 N off Mountain Rd, over canal into small parking lot.

**OCTOBER**

**1 Tuesday 7:00pm WAS Board Meeting**  
**Ogden Nature Center:** All members are welcome to attend. 966 West 12<sup>th</sup> Street, Ogden.

**2 Wednesday 8:00/9:00am Bird Walk**  
**Ogden Nature Center:** Meet at Village Inn (322 W 12<sup>th</sup> Street) for breakfast or at the Nature Center (966 W 12<sup>th</sup> Street) at 9:00am.

**5 Saturday 8:00am-2:00pm Utah**  
**Audubon Council Fall Meeting Ogden Nature Center 966 W 12<sup>th</sup> Street:** Everyone is invited. Bird walk precedes meeting. For more information, contact John Bellmon (801-444-3704).

**9 Wednesday 8:00/9:15am Bird Walk**  
**Little Mountain Railroad Trail:** Meet at Village Inn (322 W 12<sup>th</sup> Street) for breakfast or at 9:15am at the trail (trail begins off 4000 N – this is the road leading west from Smith and Edward's).

**12 Saturday 4:00am to 8:00pm**  
**THE BIG SIT! Wasatch Audubon's annual fund raiser:** Robert N. Hasenyager Nature Reserve at Farmington Bay, just south off the western end of Glover Lane (in the parking lot of the Eccles Wildlife Education Center). Bring a chair, lunch, water and your binoculars. See more details on Page 1.

**15 Tuesday 7:00pm WAS Meeting at Ogden Nature Center 966 W 12<sup>th</sup> Street:** Tres Amigos will present a program on their trip to Ecuador and Galapagos. See "WAS Meetings" on page 1 for more details.

**16 Wednesday 8:00/9:00am Bird Walk**  
**Two Rivers Trail:** Meet at Denny's (1100 W from 21<sup>st</sup> Street in the Flying J Plaza) for breakfast or at 9:00am at the parking area under the 21<sup>st</sup> Street overpass.

**19 Saturday No Field Trip**

**23 Wednesday 8:00/9:15am Bird Walk**  
**East Mountain Wilderness Park, Kaysville:** Meet at Village Inn (1765 E Skyline Dr., South Ogden) for breakfast or at 9:15 at the trailhead.

**30 Wednesday 8:00/9:00am Bird Walk**  
**Dale Young Nature Park (formerly Perry Nature Park):** Meet at the Rusted Spoon (2645 US 89, Perry) for breakfast or at 9:00am at the park (1200 W Davis Street off US 89, Perry).

**NOVEMBER**

**6 Wednesday 8:00/9:00am Bird Walk**  
**Kays Creek Parkway:** Meet at Village Inn (1765 E Skyline Drive, South Ogden) for breakfast or at 9:00am at the trailhead. Directions: Take 2000 E off of State Highway 193. Then left onto Deer View Drive. Then left onto 2125 E and continue to the trailhead parking lot.

*Trip Report: Monte Cristo  
Wildflowers*

A small group enjoyed viewing the beautiful mountain flowers in the Monte Cristo area in August. It was cool and the skies were an incredible blue to enhance the experience.

Highlights of flowers seen were Indian Paintbrush, Penstemon, Buttercup, Geraniums, Jacob's Ladder, Slendertube Skyrocket, Mountain Bluebell, and Mouse Ear Chickweed pictured below.



**Board Member Spotlight  
Sharen Perry, Secretary**

Sharen grew up in Perry, in Western NY, and went to college at SUNY Albany. As she worked her way through college, she gained secretarial skills that serve her well as our chapter's secretary. She graduated with a B.A. in English and Secondary Education in 1967 and taught 9th grade English in Philadelphia, PA from 1967-69. She then completed her formal education by earning an

M.A. in English Language and Literature at Mississippi University for Women. She moved to Montana, where she met her husband Bob, and taught and directed the GED program and Special Education in Great Falls.

Five years later, Sharen moved to Ogden and continued her teaching career. That included teaching night school, English 102 at WSU, and math and English at Mound Fort Jr. High School. She then switched careers and worked in human resources at Hill Air Force Base from 1978 - 2001.

After retiring in 2001, she began volunteering at the Egyptian Theater and enjoying Wasatch Audubon activities, claiming that bird watching adds pleasure to each day. She frequents Wednesday Bird Walks and most Audubon meetings.

**New or rejoining members**

- |                   |                    |
|-------------------|--------------------|
| Linda Brown       | Nancy Male         |
| David Carnahan    | Spyros Manes       |
| Jessica Carpenter | Christine Painter  |
| Larry Davison     | Tiffany Partington |
| Dorothy Devereaux | Karen Pratt        |
| Leslie Fitzgerald | Marylyn Rands      |
| Thomas Hannum     | Chris Rasmussen    |
| Leroy Harris      | Ernie Schneiter    |
| Karen Jenkins     | John Tanner        |
| James Jensen      | Terry Thomas       |
| Jerry Keller      | Doug Threlkeld     |
| Steve Knight      |                    |



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WASATCH AUDUBON**

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Just sign in to <https://smile.amazon.com> and select Wasatch Audubon Society as the organization you wish to support, or go directly to <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/87-0411832>.

Thank you for your support!

## The Dipper

By Jay Hudson

Do you have a favorite bird? Maybe it is one of only a few birds on your life list. Perhaps it is one from your life list of thousands. Maybe it is one you have watched for years because it hung around your feeders. John Muir's favorite bird was called the Water Ouzel - today we call it the American Dipper (*Cinclus mexicanus*). There are different species of dippers in north and South America, in Asia and in Europe. They live a solitary life in fast water. Even Aristotle recognized the dipper as a special bird. We see them in the Weber and Ogden rivers living a life sans fear of predators because of their water habitat. Their "dipping" is much like a wren or spotted sandpiper. Living its life much underwater helps in providing security. John Muir wrote a book on his travels and observations in the California Sierras where he dedicated an entire chapter to the daily life of the Dipper. Muir writes lyrically about his favorite bird. He begins his musings: "The waterfalls of the Sierra are frequented by only one bird - the Ouzel or Water Thrush. He is singularly joyous and lovable little fellow...clad in a waterproof suit of bluish gray, with a tinge of chocolate on the head and shoulders".

Once I was stuck in a Kazakhstan mountain canyon while a shepherd on horseback drove a large flock of sheep through. I wandered over to a fast-moving stream to see a White-breasted Dipper bobbing his head under water to feed on insects and was as captivated as John Muir. The sighting reminded me of the American Dipper feeding on the Weber River flowing through Riverdale, Utah. Both dippers foraged alike, as though they were cousins from different continents. I could not hear the songs of the dipper that Muir described as: "For both in winter and summer he sings, sweetly, cheerily, independent alike of sunshine and love". I also witnessed the dipper in winter in the Yosemite Valley, California, as I finished a multi-day trans-sierra cross country ski trip dropping into the valley from the high mountains. There was Muir's favorite keening bird perched on a rock; his web-less feet fast with purchase and his head underwater throwing a geometric wave over his slick gray back. Each time he raised his head from gleaning,

an open beak song burst forth into the light snowfall. The Yosemite winter coated the Merced River with ice, leaving the Dipper to hunt open deeper waters diving with verve and accuracy. During summer, in similar waters, I once saw the White-capped Dipper scrounging a falling river in the mountains of Ecuador. It too was singing a song from the same musical page. As Muir states, "The Ouzel never sings in chorus with other birds...only with the streams". What miracle of DNA blesses the dipper to sing while other birds seek shelter from a storm? What wonder of DNA tells a dipper where to and how to build a nest of mosses and chips safe on difficult rock shelves away from the weather and predators? And what causes the dipper to avoid flying over land but always "...flying above the stream, tracing all its windings".

John Muir continues his admiration of the Dipper proving his worth in glowing descriptions and ending his admiration with a salutation of esteem. He requires the reader to applaud the Dipper with its travels of the waters and its nature to "...follow them through their darkest gorges and coldest snow-tunnels: acquainted with every waterfall, echoing their divine music..."

I feel obliged to see the American Dipper in a new light brought to me through the writings of John Muir.

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**JOIN US ON FACEBOOK.** Go to [www.wasatchaudubon.gov](http://www.wasatchaudubon.gov) and click on the FACEBOOK logo.

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### Contacts for Field Trips:

Wednesday Walks – Paul Lombardi  
[pslombard@gmail.com](mailto:pslombard@gmail.com)

2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday Walks – Dan Johnston  
 801-645-8633

Field Trips on the Saturday after the WAS Tuesday meeting – Dan Johnston  
 801-645-8633



**Wasatch Audubon Society**  
P.O. Box 3211  
Ogden Utah, 84409

**AUDUBON**  
**Membership Application**

Membership in **Audubon** automatically enrolls you as a member of **Wasatch Audubon**. When you join, you will receive four issues of **Audubon** magazine and six issues of our chapter newsletter, **The Mountain Chickadee**, each year. To join as a new member with an introductory fee of **\$20**, please go to the following website:

<http://action.audubon.org/donate/chapter-membership?chapter=W54>

(By using this special page, you give our chapter credit toward a monetary reward)

Local Chapter: Wasatch Audubon Society – W54



**Wasatch Audubon Society**  
**Mountain Chickadee Subscription**

You can receive the **Mountain Chickadee** (6 issues) for just \$12, without joining **National Audubon**. If you would like to support Wasatch Audubon's education and conservation efforts, please indicate the amount of your contribution and include it in your check. Thank you.

\_\_\_ 1-year **Mountain Chickadee** subscription: **\$12.00**

\_\_\_ My contribution to Wasatch Audubon: \_\_\_\_\_

Total enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

**Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address** \_\_\_\_\_

**City** \_\_\_\_\_ **State** \_\_\_\_\_ **Zip** \_\_\_\_\_

Send your check payable to **Wasatch Audubon** to:  
**Wasatch Audubon Society**  
**P.O. Box 3211**  
**Ogden, UT 84409**